

## **Ruth Curran Neild**

### **Deputy Director for Policy and Research Delegated Duties of the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences**

On Monday, July 13, Ruth Curran Neild became the Deputy Director for Policy and Research at the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) at the U.S. Department of Education. In this role, she also was delegated the duties of the IES Director. Although new to the deputy director position, Dr. Neild is a familiar name in the world of federal education research.

Since 2012, Dr. Neild was Commissioner of the National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance (NCEE), one of the four centers that comprise IES. From January 2011 until her appointment as Commissioner, Dr. Neild served as the Associate Commissioner for NCEE's Knowledge Utilization division. In these positions, she reoriented the federal Regional Educational Laboratories network toward research-practice partnerships, increased the reach of the What Works Clearinghouse through improvements in dissemination and communication, managed an overhaul of the ERIC system, and oversaw Federal evaluations at IES. She has emphasized the importance of both technically excellent education research and its clear, engaging presentation for educators in user-friendly formats.

Prior to joining NCEE, Dr. Neild was a Research Scientist at the Johns Hopkins University Center for Social Organization of Schools, where she worked on research projects that ranged from descriptive and correlational to studies of impact. Her scholarly interests there focused on the transition to ninth grade; high school graduation and dropouts; high school reform; high school choice; and teacher quality. Much of her work involved analyses of longitudinal administrative data sets from school districts, sometimes merged with data from state and federal agencies.

Dr. Neild's work has appeared in peer-reviewed journals, popular journals for practitioners, and broadly disseminated research reports. Dr. Neild earned her Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Pennsylvania and her A.B. in history and sociology summa cum laude from Bryn Mawr College.